

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter. [Use ~~strikethrough~~ for deleted matter (or double square brackets "[[]]" if the strikethrough is not easily perceivable, *i.e.*, "4" or a punctuation mark) and underlined for added matter.]

11 – 15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) A computer program operating in a trading device, the computer program comprising:

logic for selecting a plurality of auction entities that include similar goods or services for trading;

logic for monitoring ~~trading data~~ at least active bids of each of the goods or services from each of the plurality of auction entities, ~~the trading data related to said similar goods or services;~~

logic for processing the ~~trading data~~ monitored active bids plus a respective bid increment to determine ~~a lowest possible bid~~ a plurality of bids, each bid for outbidding each of the monitored active bids respectively a leading bid on one of the ~~auction entities;~~

logic for selecting a lowest bid from the determined bids, wherein when at least two of the plurality of the bids are equal, the logic for selecting further comprises logic for selecting the lowest bid having an earliest auction finish time; and

logic for communicating ~~said lowest possible~~ the selected bid to the respective auction entity.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 16, wherein the logic for communicating further comprises:

logic for determining from the ~~trading data~~ active bids whether the leading active bid on each of the auction entities has been placed by the trading device or by ~~one or more third parties~~ another party; and

logic for submitting the ~~lowest possible~~ selected bid to the respective auction entity only when the ~~leading~~ active bid on each of the auction entities has been placed by the ~~one or more third parties~~ other party.

19. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 16, further comprising logic for receiving user input regarding a maximum price limit P_{MAX} establishing a price above which the trading device will not bid.

20. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 19, wherein the logic for processing determines whether the ~~lowest possible~~ selected bid exceeds P_{MAX} and instructs the trading device not to ~~place a bid~~ when the ~~lowest possible~~ selected bid exceeds P_{MAX} .

21. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 16, further comprising logic for receiving user input regarding a referral price limit P_{REF} establishing a price above which the trading device refers back to the user for receiving further bidding instructions.

22. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 21, wherein the logic for processing determines whether the lowest possible bid exceeds P_{REF} and refers back to the user when the lowest possible bid exceeds P_{REF} .

23. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 16, wherein:
the logic for selecting selects a the plurality of auction entities further comprises logic for selecting that include a set of said similar goods or services for trading, wherein the set corresponds to a specified number of goods or services to be acquired; and

the logic for processing ~~determines~~ further comprises logic for determining a set of ~~lowest possible~~ selected bids for outbidding a set of ~~leading~~ active bids on the auction entities, the set of active bids corresponding to a group of the active bids having a lowest total cost; and

the logic for submitting the selected bid further comprises logic for submitting the set of selected bids to the respective auction entities.

24. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 23, further comprising:

logic for receiving from a user a maximum price limit per good or service to establish a total price of the set of said goods or services, above which the trading device will not bid for the set of said similar goods or services.

25. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 16, wherein the similar goods or services for trading comprises at least one lot of similarly manufactured units.

26. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 16, further comprising logic for determining auction ~~terminating~~ finish times of the respective auction entities.

27. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 26, further comprising logic for calculating a potential bidding outcome of the respective auction entities based on the auction ~~terminating~~ finish times.

28. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

~~selecting~~ receiving a specification of multiple auction entities residing on websites, the auction entities accessible via a network, each auction entity including an item open for bid similar to an item open for bid on the other auction entities;

monitoring a highest bid for the item on each auction entity;

determining ~~the~~ a lowest possible bid to outbid one of the highest bids on a respective auction entity, wherein determining the lowest possible bid further comprises:

comparing outbid values for each auction entity, each outbid value being sufficient to outbid the highest bid on the respective auction entity and being based on the highest bid and a minimum bid increment for each auction entity;

selecting the lowest outbid value;

determining whether the lowest outbid value corresponds to more than one auction entity; and

when the lowest outbid value corresponds to more than one auction entity, selecting the lowest outbid value from the auction entity with an earliest termination time; and

placing said lowest possible bid with the respective auction entity.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein monitoring the highest bid further comprises determining whether one of the highest bids corresponds to a bid placed by said placing said lowest possible bid.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein selecting multiple auction entities further comprises receiving a user request to select the auction entities.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein selecting multiple auction entities further comprises searching a network for the auction entities.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, further comprising: enabling a user to select an auction in which to participate.

33 – 34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, further comprising: ensuring that a user has a leading bid in one of the auction entities.

36. (Currently amended) A trading entity in a trading system, the trading entity comprising:

a first module configured to select a plurality of auction entities, each auction entity providing a good or service up for bid that is similar to a good or service up for bid on the other auction entities;

a second module configured to monitor the highest active bid for the similar good or service on each auction entity; and

a third module configured to process the highest active bids to calculate a lowest possible bid for outbidding one of the highest active bids; and

a fourth module configured to receive a user input indicating a quantity Q of the similar goods or services on which to bid, wherein:

each auction entity (i) provides a number N_i of the similar goods or services up for bid;

the second module is further configured to monitor the N_i highest active bids on each auction entity; and

the third module is further configured to process the N_i highest active bids on each auction entity to calculate the Q lowest possible bids for outbidding the highest active bids on the auction entities.

37. (Previously presented) The trading entity of claim 36, wherein the third module is further configured to calculate said lowest possible bid based on the highest active bid and a minimum bid increment for the good or service on each auction entity.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently amended) The trading entity of claim ~~[[38]]~~ 36, wherein the third module is further configured to ensure that the user has Q leading bids on the auction entities.

40. (New) The computer program of claim 16, wherein the logic for monitoring further comprises logic for monitoring a finish time of the active bids.

41. (New) The computer program of claim 16, wherein the logic for monitoring further comprises logic for monitoring bid identifier data of the active bids.

42. (New) The computer program of claim 16, wherein the logic for monitoring further comprises logic for monitoring auction identification data of the active bids.

43. (New) The computer program of claim 16, wherein the logic for monitoring further comprises logic for monitoring lot identification data of the active bids.

44. (New) The computer program of claim 16, wherein the logic for monitoring further comprises logic for monitoring description information of the active bids.

45. (New) The computer program of claim 16, wherein the logic for monitoring further comprises logic for monitoring a monetary amount of the active bids.

46. (New) The computer program of claim 16, wherein the logic for monitoring further comprises logic for monitoring a status indicator of the active bids.

47. (New) The computer program of claim 16, wherein the computer program operates on a real time basis wherein the logic for monitoring, processing, selecting and communicating is repeated such that at least one new bid is placed after a previously communicated selected bid is overridden by a competing bid for a third party.

48. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the receiving, monitoring, determining, and placing is repeated such that at least one new bid is placed after a previously placed lowest possible bid is overridden by a competing bid placed by a third party.

49. (New) The trading entity of claim 36, wherein the first module, second module, third module and fourth module operate on a real time repeated basis such that at least one new bid is placed after a previously submitted lowest possible bid is overridden by a competing bid for a third party.

50. (New) A trading entity in a trading system, the trading entity comprising:

a first module configured to select a plurality of auction entities, each auction entity providing a good or service up for bid that is similar to a good or service up for bid on the other auction entities;

a second module configured to monitor active bids for each of the similar good or service on each auction entity;

a third module configured to process the monitored active bids plus a respective bid increment to determine a plurality of bids, each bid for outbidding each of the monitored active bids respectively;

a fourth module configured to select a lowest bid from the determined bids, wherein when at least two of the plurality of bids are equal, the logic for selecting further comprises logic for selecting the lowest bid having an earliest auction finish time.

51. (New) The trading entity of claim 50, further comprising a sixth module for placing the lowest bid with the respective auction entity.